

## **Public Notice – Environmental Project**

### **PURPOSE OF NOTICE:**

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed action in Virginia coastal waters.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

February 28, 2013 to March 19, 2013

### **TYPE OF RESPONSE:**

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a proposed federal action to determine if it is consistent with the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program (VCP) established pursuant to the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The VCP seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

### **NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT :**

DOC/NOAA/National Marine Fisheries Service

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes to approve the Spiny Dogfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and 2013-2015 annual specifications. The spiny dogfish fishery is jointly managed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils. The Councils have recommended annual catch limits (ACLs) and commercial quotas for the following fishing years: 2013, ACL=54.295 million pounds (lbs) and commercial quota=40.842 million lbs; 2014, ACL=55.277 million lbs and commercial quota=41.784 million lbs; and 2015, ACL=55.063 million lbs and commercial quota=41.578 million lbs. The Councils have recommended an increase in the spiny dogfish possession limit from 3,000 lbs to 4,000 lbs per trip in each year. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission has adopted identical management measures in state waters. NMFS has submitted a Federal Consistency Determination that finds the proposed action consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

### **HOW TO COMMENT:**

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

### **CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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